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REPORT OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

The Resources and Ingenuity of the Planters Taxed to Secure Proper Laborers.

The question of labor in Hawaii is dealt with at some length in a report on the agricultural resources and capabilities of that Territory, recently issued by the office of experiment stations of the Department of Agriculture. For half a century, it is said, the resources and ingenuity of the planters of the islands have been taxed in devising the best means of procuring laborers suitable for their work. Special commissioners have been dispatched to distant parts of the globe for the purpose of obtaining the desired immigration. Earnest efforts have been made in the way or carefully prepared reports and extensive correspondence. Large sums of money have been expended for costly voyages in the hope of obtaining permanent additions to the population of the islands which would develop and maintain the growing

The report continues: "From the first arrival of coolies, in 1852, up to the present time there has been no cessation in the arduous efforts to obtain an adequate supply of labor for the plantations. The Royal Hawaiian Agricultural Society, established in 1850, issued a circular stating that the introduction of coolie labor from China to supply the places of the rapidly decreasing native population was a subject of great importance. In 1852 the first introduction of coolies was made and the experiment was satisfactory. They proved able and willing laborers and quieted tations. for a while all apprehension of future goes were soon sent for and received. laborers imported for plantations could troduced, followed soon after by several not be relied upon as permanent settlers and homeseekers, and were, therefore, from a State standpoint, very undesir-

California Company

country. To bring in immigrants re- in mainly on contract, and having comquired funds, which the former alone could supply, but they were unwilling to the latter they have either renewed serburden themselves with the trouble and expense of families. Hence the plans of the King failed. In 1859 a few South Sea Islanders were landed on Kaual to work on a plantation under contract. They resembled Hawaiians, were educated, and had Christian names. It was hoped that this beginning would be the means, ultimately, of repopulating the islands and supplying the needed labor, but the hope was never realized. In 1863 another cry for importation of labor was heard, but the inquiry was everywhere made: Whom and how? The importation of white men as laborers was inadmissible; ditto with negroes. The coolie was an undesirable citizen and as a laborer of no great value. Private planters would import only men, rejecting women and children. Laborers could not

be obtained from Pacific Islands; therefore resort must again be had to China BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

"These abuses gave birth to the coolie laws of the United States, and simultaneously in Hawaii a bureau of immigration was established, taking the business of importing laborers from the hands of the planters and placing it under the charge of the kingdom. The Hawaiians claim that no such iniquity as above mentioned ever disgraced the efforts of their planters in their work of importing laborers. The 'coolie system' as known elsewhere never existed on the islands; the law between employer and employe known as the 'master and servant law' was mild, equitable and compulsory for the specific fulfillment of

contracts. 'Efforts were made to secure immigrants from India, Japan and Malaysia, and the Dutch and English East Indias. All proved abortive, after much discussion, diplomacy, and a large expenditure of time and money, except with Japan. "A shipload of Japanese reached the islands in 1869.

CO-OPERATION TRIED.

"A new and untried system of co-operative labor was introduced on a small scale in 1870. Thirty white men from the States were carried over to labor on the plantations to receive as compensation one-half of the crop made. On account of the drought, inexperience, etc., the co-operative experiment was far from being a decided success.

"Again attention was directed to the Azores and the possibility of obtaining desirable immigrants therefrom. Italy was also considered as a source of supply of future laborers. But nothing tangible was accomplished. In July, 1876, the treaty of reciprocity between the Hawaiian Kingdom and the United States was ratified. It created great joy and much inspiration in every planter in the islands. Extensive improvements were undertaken at once and energetic efforts made to secure more laborers.

"In 1878 the first batch of Portuguese from Madeira, secured after patient efforts, was landed in Honolulu, followed soon after by a cargo of South Sea Islanders, all of whom proved satisfactory to the planters. In 1881 two vessels filled with Norwegians arrived. But few of them were agriculturists, and therefore were soon dissatisfied with life on plan-

"The propriety of introducing negroes trouble in obtaining labor. Other car- from the Southern States was discussed by the board, with the result of a de-"But while the coolies were and are good workers it was soon discovered that cargoes of South Sea Islanders were in-

vessel loads of Germans. "Since 1885 up to the time of annexation the introduction of Chinese, Japanable immigrants. The planters wanted ese and Portuguese has been made to ner of Fort and King streets, this city. laborers for profit; the King desired per- meet the wants of the islands. The Japmanent settlers for the benefit of the anese and Portuguese have been brought

pleted the time of service required by vice or been returned to their homes. The Chinese have come on their own

_ands

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Militia Changes.

The First Regiment, N. G. H., has been reorganized as follows: H, F, A and E Companies, First Battalion; G, and B Companies, Second Battalion; D and I Companies, to report direct to headquarters. By the right of the seniority of Captain T. B. Murray, commander of Company H, that com-pany takes the right of line.

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